

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

FEB 16 2006

CE 1877

9, 2006

DL 130

No. 6

Prayer breakfast welcomes legislators

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The sixth annual Mississippi Baptist Legislative Prayer Breakfast was held on January 12 in the Skyroom atop the Baptist Building in downtown Jackson to welcome legislators to town for their yearly session — and let them know Mississippi Baptists are praying for them.

"The prayer breakfast is an effort to express our appreciation and support for legislators, and let them know that the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is a place where they can find people who are willing to pray for them as they make important decisions that will affect everyone in the state," said Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, the Mississippi Baptist Convention agency that sponsors the breakfast. "I always enjoy the fellowship and the opportunity to greet our state's elected officials at the start of a new year and a new legislative session."

Statewide elected officials are also invited to the breakfast. Mississippi Secretary of State Eric Clark, a member of First Church, Brandon, who serves as a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was the highest-ranking statewide official in attendance.

Jim Futal, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board executive director, provided the message for the breakfast. The men's quartet from First Church, Jackson, provided music.



TOGETHER FOR PRAYER — State Senator Tom King Jr. (left), a member of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal, and Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Director Jim Futal (center) listen as Mississippi Secretary of State Eric Clark makes a point at the annual Mississippi Baptist Legislative Prayer Breakfast on January 12 in the Skyroom of the Baptist Building in downtown Jackson. Clark, a member of First Church, Brandon, currently serves as a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

"There will be times for us to let them know how Mississippi Baptists feels about certain issues, but the prayer breakfast is meant for fellowship and to allow legislators to familiarize themselves with us. We want them to know what we're all about," Porter said.

Porter announced at the breakfast that special Bibles for legislators and statewide elected officials with their names printed on the covers would be distributed later in the session. The

Bibles have the convention board logo imprinted on the front cover and contain a special message on an inside page.

The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission is an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and is supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program. The commission monitors governmental, legal, cultural, and social issues for Mississippi Baptists and reports their findings to the 2,100 churches of the convention.

It is governed by a 15-member board appointed by messengers to the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Messengers are selected by the individual churches that are in cooperation with the convention.

For more information on the work of the commission, contact Porter at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3332, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 332. E-mail: jporter@christianaction.com. Web site: www.christianaction.com.

Input sought on conf. ministries

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast and spread unprecedented devastation throughout the state. The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) immediately committed to rebuilding churches and lives across Mississippi.

One location that experienced Katrina's full fury is Henderson Point in Pass Christian, long-time site of Gulfshore Assembly. As a result of this damage, the 2005 President of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, Gene Henderson, appointed a nine-member MBCB Conference Ministries Study Committee to study the condition of Gulfshore Assembly and to explore all possibilities related to conference ministries in Mississippi.

Larry Otis, former Mayor of Tupelo, is serving as committee chairman.

As they continue their study, the MBCB Conference Ministries Study Committee welcomes your thoughts regarding conference ministries in Mississippi. The committee can be contacted by visiting www.mbc.org and clicking on Conference Ministries Study Committee. If difficulties are encountered while submitting information online, you may choose to mail your thoughts to:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Attn: Conference Ministries Study Committee
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

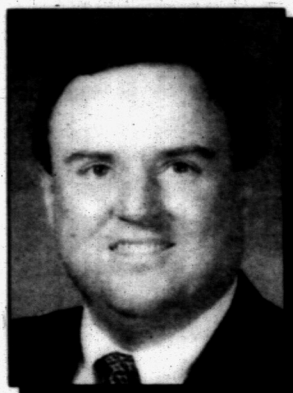


SPECIAL GIFT — Special Bibles with legislators' names and the Mississippi Baptist logo were announced at the 2006 Mississippi Baptist Legislative Prayer Breakfast on January 12. The Bibles will be distributed to legislators later in the session. Statewide elected officials will also receive the Bibles. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)





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Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and
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BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,
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VOLUME 130 • NUMBER 6
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per
year payable in advance. Economy plans
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.
Deadlines: News items — one calendar
week prior to requested publication date.
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to
requested publication date. All submissions
are subject to editing.

They just don't get it

There may be a few Americans out there who still don't understand how out of touch and downright vengeful the country's entertainment media are toward religious people — Christians almost exclusively — so this commentary is dedicated to those dwindling number of folks.

Shortly after the announcement last week of NBC Television's cancellation of the ghastly series *The Book of Daniel*, a thinly-veiled slap at the Christian faith, the network issued a press release detailing the plot line of an upcoming episode of the sitcom *Will & Grace*, a long-running show that focuses on the glib and carefree lifestyles of single homosexuals in the big city.

According to the NBC press release, the *Will & Grace* episode that will air the evening before Good Friday was to have included washed-up former pop star Britney Spears portraying a Christian fundamentalist on a cable cooking show. Spears' segment on the cooking show was to be entitled, "Cruci-fixins." Now, anyone who believes this insult wasn't intentionally scheduled just before Easter really is out of touch. What better time frame to ridicule and marginalize the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, than during the annual recognition of his crucifixion and resurrection? What more offensive way is there to heap scorn on Christianity than to name a sitcom cooking show, "Cruci-fixins," and broadcast it just before Good Friday?

Yes, it was intentional but the uproar and overwhelming negative response



from the viewing public in general — and Christians specifically — apparently caused NBC to change its mind about airing the "Cruci-fixins" segment. NBC bigwigs backed off the original press release in a hurry.

See, we can make a difference.

NBC's Milquetoast announcement withdrawing the story line, however, leaves one with the impression they just don't get it: "Some erroneous information was mistakenly included in a press release describing an upcoming episode of *Will & Grace*

which, in fact, has yet to be written. The reference to "Cruci-fixins" will not be in the show and the storyline will not contain a Christian characterization at all. We value our viewers and sincerely regret if this misinformation has offended them."

The network's statement reflects an interesting choice of words, and doesn't tell the whole story. Don Wildmon, president of the American Family Association (AFA) in Tupelo which led the charge against the *Will & Grace* episode, filled in the blanks.

"When NBC said that the script 'has yet to be written,' what they didn't tell you is that the story board had been completed and the offensive material was scheduled to be a part of the episode. The story board contains the outline of the program. That is the reason for the detailed description of the episode issued by NBC in their initial press release," Wildmon explained in a February 8 e-mail to AFA supporters.

Dan Modisett, general manager of WLBT-DT, the NBC affiliate in Jackson and a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, said, "NBC officials assured me that this episode of *Will & Grace* will not air. The producers of the show sent out a press release before the show was even shot. NBC learned a painful lesson from *The Book of Daniel* and they are not about to repeat the same mistake. I have let them know that WLBT will not air *Will & Grace* if the show is like the one described in the press release."

Let's hope they get the message this time, but given the entertainment industry's historical animus toward Christians, don't count on it.

GUEST OPINION:



Keep SBC 'eye' on the ball

By Jimmy Draper
Nashville

was nailed to a cross. There was a beating involved, and bloodshed. We must not water that down. We cannot compromise the reality of the Gospel under the guise of relevancy.

A second tension we face is what I spoke of at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) last June. We are in danger of choking the life out of the future of the SBC by dabbling in peripheral matters and neglecting the heart of our convention, which have always been missions, evangelism and cooperation. The added challenge here is to incorporate younger Southern Baptists into the leadership of our convention.

I spent a lot of time the past two years calling for the inclusion of younger leaders, but also for younger leaders to engage the convention and not back away. I have met many of

these men and women, and I am impressed. They are accepting the challenge.

Some across the convention point to the complainers among the younger leaders and despise the youth of the entire group. As a result, we often get side-tracked into nonessential matters. This, in turn, can create larger barriers for our work together. We may become guilty of sacrificing cooperation with the sword of inflexibility. All the while, the white fields waiting to be harvested stand decaying.

A place to begin is on our knees. It is tough to criticize those for whom we pray. How my heart aches at the research that reveals we spend less than seven minutes a day in prayer. Brothers and sisters, we cannot do God's work in our way. The only way to know and do the

will of God is to fall on our face before Him, asking for His direction and responding in obedience. We must pray more purposefully and more passionately.

Closely related is humility. Individuals motivated by personal agendas reek of arrogance. God hates arrogance. I am encouraged because I believe there is a growing desire for humility in the hearts of God's people. I believe there is a movement beginning to take place where Christians are dissatisfied with the comfortable, materialistic, ineffective Christianity they've been living and are truly seeking God. My heart's desire is that humility will consume the church and consume our convention.

I will miss being as actively involved in SBC leadership as I have been in the past. I love you all! We face some tough individual and corporate challenges, but I am incredibly optimistic about what God is going to do through Southern Baptists in the years ahead, if we will keep our eye on the ball.

Editor's note: Draper's last day as president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention was January 31. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.



BURNED — An unidentified man walks through what remains of Rehobeth Church's building on February 3. The church, located in Randolph, Ala., apparently was an arson victim. Another four churches in the county and on in a neighboring county also were targets. All total, four SBC churches were set afire. (BP photo by Lauren Chow/The Alabama Baptist)

Alabama Baptist churches hit by arsonists

CENTREVILLE, Ala. (BP) — Five churches, including four Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) churches, were destroyed or damaged in an Alabama county apparently by arson Thursday night and Friday morning, and a fire at a sixth church fire in a neighboring county is being investigated.

Rehobeth Church in Randolph, Ashby Church in Brierfield, and Pleasant Sabine Church in Centreville were burned to the ground. Antioch Church in Centreville and Old Union Church near Randolph were damaged. All but Pleasant Sabine are Southern Baptist, and all five are in Bibb County.

"The sheriff's department and the ABI (Alabama Bureau of Investigation) are treating it as arson, and obviously they've got some clues as to that," Steve Patrick, director of missions for the Bibb County Association, told Baptist Press. The FBI joined the investigation Friday.

Investigators are looking closely at how the fires were started in the two churches that weren't destroyed, said Patrick, who added it appeared "the back door was kicked in and the fire was set around the pulpit area" in the churches.

"We believe it's somebody that has a vendetta against Christianity in general, maybe Baptist churches in particular," said Patrick, who requested prayer for the churches as well as for the individual or individuals who started the fires.

All four SBC churches run less than 100 on Sunday mornings, Patrick said, and all five churches that were affected are located within 10-15 miles of each other.

Although racism was involved in 1996 when several black churches in Alabama were burned, the fires in Bibb County involved four predominantly white churches and one predominantly black church.

Meanwhile, a sixth church, New Harmony Church (non-SBC) in neighboring Chilton County, was damaged by a fire Thursday afternoon. The Clanton Advertiser reported. That church burned just before sunset; the fires at the other churches appear to have been set sometime during the night.

The Antioch Church fire went out by itself, Patrick said he was told. The Old Union Baptist fire, he said, was extinguished after a deacon who lives near the church noticed the fire.

Members of all the Bibb County churches are "a little bit in shock, but they're going to go on. They're pretty resilient," Patrick said.

Ashby Church tentatively is planning to meet in the building of a sister church in the area, while Rehobeth Church has a fellowship hall that wasn't burned that they can use, Patrick said.

David Hand, pastor of Old Union Church, said the community remains in disbelief. "Our congregation is pretty upset, but we are also thankful because others lost a lot more than we did," he told The Alabama Baptist newsjournal.

The damage to Old Union Church, Hand said, essentially was caused by two separate fires. The damaged areas include the pulpit, remembrance table, the American flag, and the carpet around the flag and remembrance table. "There is a lot of

sadness around the area, but we are all pulling together," he said.

Old Union is a church of about 55 members. Hand estimated the repairs would run in the several thousands of dollars.

Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, said the state convention is "working with the leadership of the Bibb Baptist Association to provide prayer support and damage assessment for these churches."

"As quickly as possible, we anticipate having mobile chapels available for use by the two churches whose facilities were destroyed. Also we're providing some appropriate financial assistance for all four Bibb Association churches whose facilities were damaged or destroyed by fire."

"It's only because of Alabama Baptists' generosity through the Cooperative Program and the general disaster relief fund that we're able to offer some financial assistance. This crisis illus-

Record

trates how critical it is to support the Cooperative Program, associational missions, and disaster relief on an ongoing basis."

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, called the likely arson "the kind of hate crime the American people should never tolerate without speaking out indignantly. (We) should expect the police to prosecute the criminals... If we are going to be Christians who live out our faith, we are going to face persecution. We will continue to practice love, forgiveness, and reconciliation, and the government should prosecute and punish."

Looking back

Baylor University, affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, drops its traditional policy banning dancing on the campus of the school in Waco, Texas.

Douglas Clifton Seale, a top-ranking Southwestern Seminary student from Meridian, is killed when an unknown gunman fires five random shots through the living room window of his residence located just off the seminary's Fort Worth campus.

Approximately 1,200 people participated in the Marion County School of Music held in East Columbia Church. The school was led by Luther A. Harrison, Mississippi Baptist's music director.



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RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eter-
nal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and
rose from the grave to forgive
my sins and to restore my
relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a
loving relationship with Him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to
become children of God, even to
those who believe in his name."
(John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiri-
tual guidance.*

I STILL BELIEVE

What a person believes will make and mark his life. In this age of weird and warped teachings, I see more and more things that people believe in. For many of us it is shocking to see that more and more do not believe in the true and trustworthy teachings of Scripture. In a world that has made its chief doctrine to be tolerance, we have allowed every teaching to become equal to every other teaching even if it is in opposition and destructive to the Word of God. Our pluralistic thinking demands that we be open to everything and everyone and in opposition to absolutely nothing. The end result is that we have generations of folks who have a broad acceptance of anything and everything, and in reality believe nothing.

Just for the sake of visualization, let's turn all of the multiple belief systems of the world into 12 bottles sitting on a shelf. One is Coca Cola, one is Dr. Pepper, one is plain water, and so on, until we have 12 different kinds of drinks lined up. Suppose one of the bottles is filled with deadly rat poison. Let's listen to someone have a philosophical discussion about religion. They explain to us that every bottle has its place and just because you like one particular bottle over another does not mean it is better or that the others are worse. Any of the bottles will be fine for you to take and drink.

As you look at all 12 bottles, you are able to reason that is not right. Just believing any bottle is



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

good and has its own particular place and function does not make drinking the rat poison less deadly. So, you speak up, point out that is not a good thing, and warn people not to drink of every bottle and especially the one that has the poison. Suddenly, you become the object of criticism and you are belittled because of your lack of enlightenment or intellect. Still, knowing what you know, you ignore the sneers because you are totally confident that the rat poison is deadly.

In today's environment it is not easy to stand for truth and against error, for someone will quickly attack you and some may even seek to humiliate you. I am opposed to homosexuality and same-sex marriages not because I am against people who are involved in that lifestyle, but because I know that lifestyle is destructive to those who pursue it. Homosexuality is not just an alternate lifestyle; it is contrary to the Word of God and even in conflict with nature itself. The result is that people who pursue that pattern of living find themselves in a conflicted world that brings chaos to

their heart, and often disease into their life. While it appears that there are so many different beliefs and so many who are changing their beliefs, let me state clearly and without equivocation: *I still believe!*

I believe in an absolute moral law which remains unaltered. Often we hear about people breaking the Ten Commandments, when in reality they are breaking their lives on the Ten Commandments and the Commandments remain intact. The laws of God point out the deficiencies in us, and as Paul instructed us in the Word it literally becomes our schoolmaster, teaching us that we need something else because we cannot keep the law. Still the law remains truthful, absolute, and unchanging.

I believe in a life beyond this life, either with Jesus eternally or separated from God forever in hell. Recently, I was quizzed by a couple of people wanting to know how I felt about preaching in today's society that seems to have moved away from eternal issues and basically focuses on the positives of life in the here and now. While that may not be true altogether, depending on who the preacher is and how

often you listen to the Word that is being preached, to ignore the reality of hell is not to diminish its reality at all. We cannot fail to preach on the truth of God's Word about eternity. God clearly tells us in His Word that all of us face death and, just beyond death, what is real. If we did not proclaim the truth, we would be unfaithful servants of the Lord.

I know that surveys frequently show a growing number of people do not believe in either a heaven or a hell. That does not change the facts at all. God did not set up His rule of the universe, and neither did He shape the future life based on polls, surveys, and the whims of people's minds.

Let me tell you that ultimately, finally, gloriously, I believe in an all powerful, eternal, and still-able-to-save-to-the uttermost Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus is still the name above all names. By that name lives are changed, souls are saved, and there is hope for the world. As just a kid of a preacher starting out, an old preacher told me, "Jim, always preach Jesus and people will come to hear." As a youngster in the ministry, I did not fully understand what he was talking about, but I can tell you that through the years I have found an ever-growing, wonderful assurance in preaching that Jesus is able to do everything He did and everything He said He could do in our lives. He still saves, keeps, blesses, and wants to use us in His Kingdom work. *I still believe!*

The author may be contacted at
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-
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HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 9, 2006

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

CAMP GARAYWA SUMMER CAMP POSITIONS

CAMP GARAYWA, state GA/Acteens camp, is seeking college women with a deep growing relationship with Christ and a desire to serve Him as cabin leaders during the 2006 summer camping season.

Applicants should be Southern Baptist, have a strong interest in missions and possess a love for children. Applicants should be flexible and able to serve for eight weeks of summer camp plus one week of pre-camp training. Camp begins May 29.

To receive an application and schedule an interview for Camp Garaywa, please speak with your local BSU director or contact the following:

Robin Keels, wMu Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board,
1-800-748-1651, ext. 322, or 601-292-3322. E-mail at rkeels@mbcb.org. Applications are also available online (go to www.mbcb.org and click on the Garaywa camp staff application on the home page). **THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 15.**



**CALVARY BC
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5 p.m.
February 26**

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Contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department:
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2006 PREACHING

SPONSORED BY PASTOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, MBCH

**First Baptist Church, Vicksburg
Monday, April 24, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**First Baptist Church, Starkville
Tuesday, April 25, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**



**Featured Presenter
Wayne VanHorn**

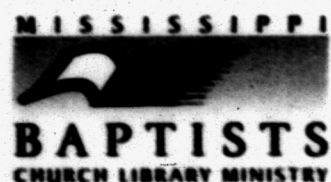
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- PREPARING MEDIA FOR CIRCULATION - Led by Sandra Fitts
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For more information: contact Communication Services, 601-292-3378 or 1-800-748-1651.

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SOUTH SINGLE-SINGLE AGAIN CONFERENCES

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(South Exit I-55, east on Hwy. 84)

8:30 a.m. - noon

Keynote Speaker

Dianne Swaim, Little Rock, Ark.



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- Never Married - led by "Miss Chocolate" Gwen Williams
- Widows/Widowers - led by Farley Earnest
 - Divorce - led by Diane Swaim
 - Single-Parenting - led by Dot Day

Call Lincoln Co. Assn. (601-833-8111)

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch if registered by Feb. 1)
\$5 at door (no lunch)

Send money to: Lincoln Co. Baptist Assn.
640 Halbert Heights Road
Brookhaven, MS 39601

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NORTH SINGLE-SINGLE AGAIN CONFERENCES

Saturday, March 4, North Winona BC, Winona

(662-283-1687)

8:30 a.m. - noon

Keynote Speaker

Renee Scheidt, China Grove, N.C.



CONFERENCES: (90 MINUTES)

- Never Married - led by "Miss. Chocolate" Gwen Williams
- Divorce - led by James Haynes
- Widow/Widowers - Gail Wood
- Finances - Murray Greenlee
- Single Parenting - Tate Cockrell

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch if registered by Feb. 27)
\$5 at door (no lunch)

Send money to: Montgomery Baptist Assn.
PO Box 461, Winona, MS 38967
Make check payable to Singles Ministry.

(Sponsored by Delta/Hill Singles, Montgomery Assn. & MBCB)

Second Annual Hispanic Women's Retreat Segundo Retiro Anual de Mujeres Hispanas

**March 17-18, 2006
17-18 de Marzo de 2006
Central Hills Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko, MS**

Bible study, testimonies, music, prayer, fellowship
Estudio Bíblico, testimonios, alabanzas, grupos de oración, compañerismo

**Special Guest Conference Leader and Author of
'Does Love Bear All Things?'**
Conferencista Invitada y Autora de '¿El amor todo lo soporta?'
Mrs. Mirta Vazquez Hna. Mirta Vazquez
Florida/Argentina Desde Florida/Argentina

Cost: \$20 per person – Child Care Provided
Costo: \$20 por persona – Habrá cuidado de niños
Registration begins at 2:00 p.m. Friday, March 17.
Registración empieza a las 2:00 p.m. el Viernes 17 de Marzo

Deadline to register March 9
Último plazo para registrarse 9 de Marzo

For more information contact:
Para más información comuníquese con:

Mrs. Damaris Medina
Hna. Damaris Medina
601-267-5393

jmedina@netdoor.com

Ms. Paula Smith
Hna. Paula Smith
601-968-3800, ext. 336
1-800-748-1651
psmith@mbcb.org

Registration Form Formulario de Registración

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Persona Encargada: _____ Teléfono: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Dirección: _____ Ciudad: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Estado: _____ Código: _____ Correo electrónico: _____

On a separate sheet: Names of women attending with you:

En un papel aparte: Nombres de las mujeres que asisten con usted:

Names and ages of children attending: _____

Nombres y edades de los niños que asisten: _____

Mail to:

Envíe a:

Central Hills Baptist Retreat
P.O. Box 698, Kosciusko, MS 39090-0698.

Please make checks payable to:
Por favor haga los cheques a favor de:
Central Hills Baptist Retreat

Deadline to register March 9
Último plazo para registrarse 9 de Marzo



**GA MOTHER/DAUGHTER
OVERNIGHT
MARCH 31 - APRIL 1
CAMP GARAYWA**

GRADES 1-6 Cost: \$38
Registration Deadline: March 17 or when full

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Activities include worship, campfire, crafts, recreation
and a missionary visit.*

*All overnights begin at
5 p.m. on Friday and end at 2 p.m. on Saturday.*

For more information contact the wMu at 1-800-748-1651 or
601-292-3322.

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March 11, 2006

8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Central Hills Baptist Church

Washburn, MS

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Pray this day for...

February 10-23, 2006

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When God Makes a Promise - "When it comes to God's promises, His delays are not His denials."

devotions@navigators.org

For: (1) Racial Reconciliation Sunday (CAC Emphasis); (2) The Uruguay Deaf Team writes: "Ask the Lord to provide laborers for the harvest among the deaf in Uruguay. Many doors are opening, but we lack enough dedicated people to send."

For: (1) Focus on Missions through WMU organizations, 13th - 19th (WMU); (2) A poor harvest this year will cause many young men and women from northern Ghana to flock to the large cities to find work. Ask the Lord to lead them to the few Baptist congregations already established among Northern Peoples in the cities.

E is a young business woman among the Algerian Arabs of Algeria who has made a decision to follow Jesus. Her family has turned against her. Pray that E would be encouraged constantly by her new family in Christ (the few Christians in her city) and would be bold in sharing Jesus with her coworkers.

Apprentice Baptist representatives, Larry and Josie, will be the only IMB representatives in the mega-city of Ufa, Russia, for the next seven months. Pray that they might daily feel the strength and power of God's presence. Pray that they will not be afraid, but will be reassured that greater is He who is in them, than he who is in the world.

For: (1) MBREA, FBC, Olive Branch, 16th - 17th (CG); (2) Durk Lynch, Gallup, N.M., is a MSC missionary working with the Navajo people. Pray for the co-workers God has sent, for the churches on the Navajo nation, and Josh McDowell's speaking engagement in Gallup, N.M., Feb. 20.

Johnny Beaver, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Pascagoula, Miss., shares that the church sustained great damage in Hurricane Katrina. Eighty percent of their people lost everything or their homes. God has been very good to them in giving relief, but they are in dire need of a spiritual revival. Pray for the pastor, the church staff, and the people to be lifted up.

For: (1) Marriage/Family Enrichment, Ridgecrest BC, Madison, 6:30 p.m. 17th - 2 p.m. 18th (D&F); (2) State BSU Retreat, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 5:30 p.m., 17th - 1 p.m. 18th (CLGM); (3) State Youth Music Festival FBC, Madison, 6:30 p.m., 17th - 1 p.m. 18th (CM).

Aquiles Serdan, Mexico, is a community that finally has real streets. However, the people in this community do not know the real Savior. In a community of 150 houses, there is only one small house church of seven people. Pray for several more locations to have house churches in this community. Ask that this community would be known as followers of Jesus Christ.

Pray for survey work that needs to be done on The Peninsula in the Philippines, one of the darkest regions of northern Mindanao and less than 2 percent evangelized. Pray that missionary Jim Walker and those on his team will be able to do effective research and find "persons of peace" (Luke 10:6).

Dennis J. Rivera, Tifton, Ga., Hispanic church planter, directs the South Georgia Hispanic Bible Institute and Youth Camp in addition to helping to start Hispanic churches. Pray that God will send more church planters to reach thousands of Hispanics in South Georgia. Also pray for unity among the existing congregations.

India is a country saturated with religion. Sometimes it seems that every street corner and house has idol. Pray for the distribution and effectiveness of two new tracts that have been produced. Ask the Lord to use them to stir up a desire to know more about and follow Jesus. Also pray that good follow-up can be done with the seekers.

Jason Dukes, Gotha, Fla., is the pastor of Westpoint Fellowship Church. Pray for the success of their first marketplace church presence called House Blend Café in the western part of Orlando, Florida. Pray that it would be successful as a business, at loving the community, and introducing people to Jesus.

Please pray for missionary Carolyn Dale, Mexico, who underwent extensive testing at the ALS Clinic in San Antonio, Texas, on January 25. Pray that Carolyn and her husband, Gerald, will experience the deep love and tenderness of our heavenly Father. May they see God at work in remarkable ways in their circumstances of life.

For: (1) AMD Interpretation Meeting, Camp Garaywa, Patterson Place, Clinton, 10 a.m. 23rd - noon 24th (MS); (2) Pray for a key evangelist, among the Khmer Krom of Vietnam, who has become confused by cult-like doctrines.



Global Impact Forum

March 10-11, 2006

Sponsored by the Missions Mobilization Department, MBCB

Friday, March 10

Baptist Building
515 Mississippi Street

Network/Skills Conference - 2-5 p.m.

- Chronological Bible Storying
- Paula Smith

Banquet - 6:30 p.m.

FBC, Jackson, 425 North State Street

- East Asia Guest
- City of Baltimore Guest

Banquet Cost: \$10

Reservations are required by March 3.

Either mail the form below or call
601-292-3398 by March 3.

Saturday, March 11

Baptist Building
515 Mississippi Street

Continental Breakfast - 8:30 a.m.

Network/Skills Conferences

- Chronological Bible Storying (continued)
- Paula Smith
- SE Asia Guest
- Introduction of IMPACT YOUR WORLD
- Team Leader Training
- Mega Focus Cities Church Planting Emphasis

Adjourn - 11:30 a.m.

RESERVATION FORM

Global Impact Forum, March 10-11, 2006

Name _____
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ No. of Reservations _____
No. attending conferences: Friday _____ Saturday _____

Please complete form and mail to: Missions Mobilization Department, MBCB
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530

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FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded.

Please send all to:

Child's name,

Parent's name

MBCB Stewardship Dept.

PO Box 530

Jackson MS 39205



HOUSE TOPS



2. Magers, President Lee Royce, Richardson, and Miley

1. The Mississippi College Music Department will present an Honors Recital featuring vocal and instrumental students in performance with members of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra on February 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Swor Auditorium of Nelson Hall on the Mississippi College campus. The music includes literature from the late-Baroque through the early-Romantic repertoire. The recital is open to the public at no charge. Please call (601)925-3440 for information.

2. Mississippi College held the December 2005 graduation commencement ceremonies on December 17 in A. E. Wood Coliseum. Degrees were conferred upon approximately 220 students from the Bachelors degree program, the Graduate School, and the Mississippi College School of Law. David Magers, of Clinton, professor in the Department of Chemistry

and BioChemistry, and the 2004-05 Distinguished Professor of the Year, brought the commencement address. Jay Richardson, Pastor of Highland Colony Parkway Baptist Church, and a member of the Mississippi College Board of Trustees brought the invocation. Randy Miley, professor and chair of the MC Department of Art, gave the benediction.

3. Mississippi College announces a concert featuring the piano and trombone duo of Angela Willoughby, associate professor of Music at Mississippi College, and Yu Tamaki, a member of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Brass Quintet. The concert will be held on the MC campus in Swor Auditorium on February 16 at 7:30 p.m. There is no charge for admission and guests are invited to a reception to meet the artists in the Nelson Hall foyer following the concert. For information call (601) 925-3216.

4. The Miss Mississippi College pageant, a preliminary pageant to the Miss Mississippi pageant held in Vicksburg, was held on January 24 and resulted in the naming of three finalists: Miss MC 2006, Ashlynn Bloomfield, of Vancleave; 1st alternate, Rebekah Staples, of Laurel; 2nd alternate, Blair Love, of Clinton.

5. William Carey College Theatre will present the American classic "Tom Sawyer," by Mark Twain and adapted for the stage by Sara Spencer, February 23 through 25 in the O. L. Quave Theatre on the Hattiesburg campus. Performances are Feb. 23 and Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 25 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The box office will open Feb. 20 and be open daily from 1 until 4 p.m. Reservations can be made by calling (601) 318-6221. Tickets are \$5.

6. William Carey College student John Blackmon, a senior history major from Foxworth, was awarded the E. R. Pinson Memorial Scholarship by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board of Ministerial



6. Blackmon Board of Ministerial



4. Love, Bloomfield, Amanda Kendrick (Miss MC '05), and Staples

Education. Named the Outstanding Leadership Team Member in 2005 by the Baptist Student Union,

Blackmon currently serves as pastor of White Bluff Baptist Church in Marion County.



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Age	Rate	Annual Income	Tax Deduction*
65	6.0%	\$600	\$2,868.70
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80	8.0%	\$800	\$4,585.20
90	11.3%	\$1,130	\$5,556.80

For more information, please contact the Office of Advancement:
Danny Rutland
 1.866.232.3945
 601.925.3257

*Example only; Tax deductions will vary according to date and amount of gift

STATE CHANGES



Howell and wife

First Church, Gautier, has called Stephen M. Bufkin as minister of music and education. Bufkin has received degrees from Louisiana College and from New Orleans Seminary. He comes to Gautier with his wife Dianne and daughter Jennifer.

Poplar Springs Church, Newton, has called Billy Ray Gibbs of Union as pastor.

Amaziah Church, Union County, has called Jason Howell as pastor. Howell had served as associate pastor until the death of his grandfather, Leonard Howell. Shown are Howell and Jessie Howell.

Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, has called Charles Scrivener, as associate pastor in education and outreach. Scrivener had served the church in the same capacity from 1999 until 2003, and had most recently served at First Church, Kissimmee, Fla.

First Church, Coldwater, has called Len Killough as minister of music.

Visit us online at
www.mccb.org

REVIVALS

First Church, Flora: Revival, Feb. 12-15; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Justin Peters, speaker.

Goss Church, Columbia: Revival, Feb. 19-22; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Shannon Marshall, speaker; Mark McArthur, pastor.

Yalobusha Association: Youth Fest 06 — Kingdom Intent student crusade; Mar. 3, 7 p.m. and Mar. 4, 6 p.m.; Yalobusha County Multipurpose Building; Rick Ousley, Quixotic Ministries, speaker; Jake Gullede, music; for more information, call (662) 675-8732.

Bibliocipher

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NUQ ZYAH LF CYH, D
FNAYKC UYZH LK NUQ
HDI YM NAYJGZQ; DKH
UQ VKYEQNU NUQO
NUDN NAJFN LK ULO.

KDUJO YKQ:FQXQK

Clue: T = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Second Timothy Four: One.

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Midwest Baptist Assembly of God 7:30-8:30 pm. 6150 Walnut St. 251-455-1302	Commerce Assembly of God 7:30-8:30 pm. 3800 Texas State St. 251-455-0137	First Church of the Nazarenes 10:00-11:30 am. 600 Indian St. 251-455-0300
Southwest Baptist Church 7:30-8:30 pm. 1711 Taylor Ln. 251-475-3385	Old South Baptist Church 7:30-8:30 pm. 6000 Bishop St. 251-345-7300	St. Johns Baptist Church 7:30-8:30 pm. 2201 Oakley Ave. 251-457-0300
South Baptist Church 7:30-8:30 pm. 3705 Douglas Blvd. Hwy. 251-475-0302	First Baptist Church Mobile 7:30-8:30 pm. 1251 Industrial Hwy. 251-455-1300	Mobile Area Baptist Church 7:30-8:30 pm. 607 Park St. 251-455-0300
Christy Chapel 7:30-8:30 pm. 1200 Montgomery Ave. 251-455-0300	First Baptist Church Mobile 7:30-8:30 pm. 2102 Sandy Creek Rd. 251-457-0302	Mobile Area Baptist Church 7:30-8:30 pm. 607 Park St. 251-455-0300
Attn: Pastor Johnson For the entire 2006 course, call (800) 474-GROW (4769). For any questions regarding the course or for more information, call (800) 474-GROW (4769).	Southwest Baptist Church 7:30-8:30 pm. 10000 County Rd. 32 251-455-7300	Commerce Baptist Church 10:00-11:30 am. 3001 Commerce St. 251-455-7300
	First Assembly of God 7:30-8:30 pm. 1705 Highway 31 S. 251-457-0300	

Franklin GRAHAM
FESTIVAL

MS POSITIONS

PART-TIME/BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC: HEUCKS RETREAT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MISSISSIPPI, is seeking a part-time/bi-vocational Minister of Music with interests in traditional/contemporary worship styles. Please send resumes and references to Heucks Retreat Baptist Church, 2167 Heucks Retreat Rd. NE, Brookhaven, MS 39601. Attention: Chairman, Personnel Committee or call 601-672-3518.

PEARLHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. If interested, please send resume to the pastor search committee, P.O. Box 481, Brookhaven, MS 39602.

MINISTER OF MUSIC: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GREENVILLE, Miss., seeks a dynamic individual to lead its worship and music ministry. Seminary education with at least 3 years experience preferred. The position is full-time. Average SS attendance is 400. Send resumes to Dr. James L. Nichols, P.O. Box 1163, Greenville, MS 38702 or jnichols@bcgreenville.net.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHANNON, MISS., is seeking full-time music and youth minister. Special consideration is given to individual with youth ministerial experience. Send resume to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 21, Shannon, MS 38868.

Happy Valentines Day
Feb. 14, 2006

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

What Does Service Cost?

Am I willing to pay a price to serve God faithfully? Jeremiah 26:1-24

By Don Hicks

What does it cost to serve God? It cost one of the first deacons, Stephen, his life (Acts 7:54-60). Paul was imprisoned, beaten, and near death many times. Here is the way Paul describes his cost in 2 Corinthians 11:24-25:

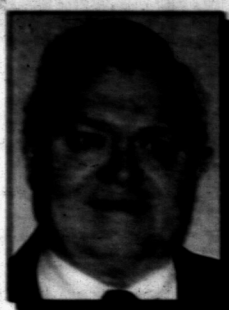
"Five times I received from the Jews 40 lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day in the depths of the sea."

Our Lord was scourged and crucified. Jeremiah was ridiculed, imprisoned, and exiled.

Our lesson this week looks at one of the crises times in Jeremiah's 50 years of ministry. About 609 B.C. (The Word Bible Handbook by Lawrence O.

Richards) very early in the reign of Jehoiakim, Josiah's son, Jeremiah made his temple speech. God commanded Jeremiah to make this very unpopular speech "in the courtyard of the Lord's temple." God warned Jeremiah "speak all the words I have commanded you to speak to all Judah's cities that are coming to worship there. Do not hold back a word." (Jeremiah 26:2). God warned Jeremiah not to hold back a word because He knew the message He was giving him would anger and upset the temple leadership including the priest and prophets.

The harsh and unpopular message from God through Jeremiah was: "This is what the Lord says: If you do not listen to Me by living according to My law that I set before you



Hicks

and by listening to the words of My servants the prophets I have been sending you time and time again, though you did not listen, I will make this temple like Shiloh. I will make this city an object of cursing for all the nations of the earth." (Jeremiah 26:4-6).

When Jeremiah had the audacity to stand in the temple say it would be destroyed like Shiloh "the priest, the prophets, and all the people took hold of him, yelling, 'You must surely die! How dare you prophesy in the name of the Lord, 'This temple will become like Shiloh and this city will become an uninhabited ruin.' Then all the people assembled against Jeremiah at the Lord's temple," (Jeremiah 26:8-9).

This is a real mob scene egged on by the priest and prophets because Jeremiah threatened their rule of the temple. This is very similar to Christ before Pilate. The priests felt their position threatened and stirred the mob to call for the death of an

innocent man because he had dared to follow God rather than bow to their complete rule as religious leaders.

The civil authorities convened court at the entrance to the New Gate of the temple. The priests and prophets brought their baseless charges to the civil authorities. Unlike Jesus before Pilate, Jeremiah answered the charges against him. He said "As for me, here I am in your hands; do to me what you think is good and right. But know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood on yourselves, on this city, and on its residents, for it is certain the Lord has sent me to speak all these things directly to you," (Jeremiah 26:14-15).

Jeremiah could not pass up the opportunity provided him speaking in open court to deliver God's message again. Boldly: "Jeremiah said to all the officials and the people (this was the mob calling for his death), 'The Lord sent me to prophesy all the words that you have heard against this temple and city. So now, correct your ways

and deeds and obey the voice of the Lord your God so that He might relent concerning the disaster that He warned about," (Jeremiah 26:12-13).

Then the fickle crowd joined the civil authorities and told the priest "This man doesn't deserve the death sentence, for he has spoken to us in the name of the Lord our God!" (Jeremiah 26:16).

Apparently the civil authorities that came from the palace to the temple for the court session were officials appointed by Josiah during his reform. Because of their commitment to God, they protected Jeremiah.

Apparently Baruch, Jeremiah's scribe and biographer, wanted us to know that even though Jeremiah was not hurt this time, he was in grave danger. We find in verses 20-23 the story of Uriah son of Shemaiah who was kidnapped from exile in Egypt and killed because he prophesied the same things against this city and this land as Jeremiah did.

Hicks is a member of First Church, Clinton.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Glorify God

Romans 15: 1-13

By Shirley Heap

In the early 50's a young man answered the call to the ministry. With no formal education he entered a course to finish high school and entered college. Due to the response of his many friends this young minister's financial needs were met during this time. His prayers were answered and what else could he do but glorify God. Twenty years later a young couple contacted this minister and told him how they had seen God work in his early ministry. This had shown them how God had been revealed to them in such a way they would never forget His glory. Now they were going to a mission field and this strengthening faith, learned many years before, was carrying them through tough times.

As a pebble thrown in a pond, the ripples of our small act of faith may go on and on. Our actions can glorify God for years and help others to glorify him.

Serving Others, Romans 15:1-4

Nothing pleases God more than to see His children in harmony carrying out His plan. Believers are to follow the example of Christ who came to serve others. Think of the glory our Lord left behind to come show us the Father. Verse 4 says, "for our instruction, so that through our endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we may have hope."

Those who are strong are to have patience and understanding with immature believers even though we may have to



Heap

way. How else can we glorify our Lord except by following his example as a servant? "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many." (Matt. 20:28)

Getting Along, Romans 15:5-6

Paul prays for Christians to be likeminded (in agreement) or in harmony. Not necessarily having all the same beliefs but having a unity "according to Christ Jesus." Living in harmony as God's family is an example of glorifying God that makes its mark in the world today. Verse 6 says, "so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord

Jesus Christ with a united mind and voice." Let us, His children realize the world is looking at us as we glorify our Father.

Treating Others Well, Romans 15:7-12

Verse 7 carries over from verse 6 by saying, "therefore," after all Christ has done, we must accept one another. Christ accepted each of us, and He did this for the glory of God. This word "accept" brings to mind a wedding ceremony. In the service the groom and the bride answer the question "Do you take this man (woman)? This acceptance is done in love. We have many differences, yet all these can be used for God's glory, if others are respected in our Christian walk.

A reference is made of Christ coming for the promise to be fulfilled for the Jews and yet He extended Himself that Gentiles might come to know God the Father as well and to glorify His Name. So our goal should be to set aside all petty differences and rejoice and glorify the Lord.

Our behavior speaks louder than our words. Let our joy overflow for the glory of God.

Expressing Hope, Romans 15:13

How lost we would be without hope. Paul prays for us again. This joy and peace he speaks of does not come through our self-help programs or generated by our own will power. It comes only through the saving grace of our Lord by our believing through faith. Then could Paul say, "so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

As God's children our joy comes from the Lord Himself as a free gift. What joy floods our soul? What peace to know that all is well in our soul and with our Heavenly Father. One of my favorite thoughts is expressed in the song, "The Solid Rock." "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness ... I dare not trust in anything less."

Heap is a member of Calvary Church, Waynesboro.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.

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Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

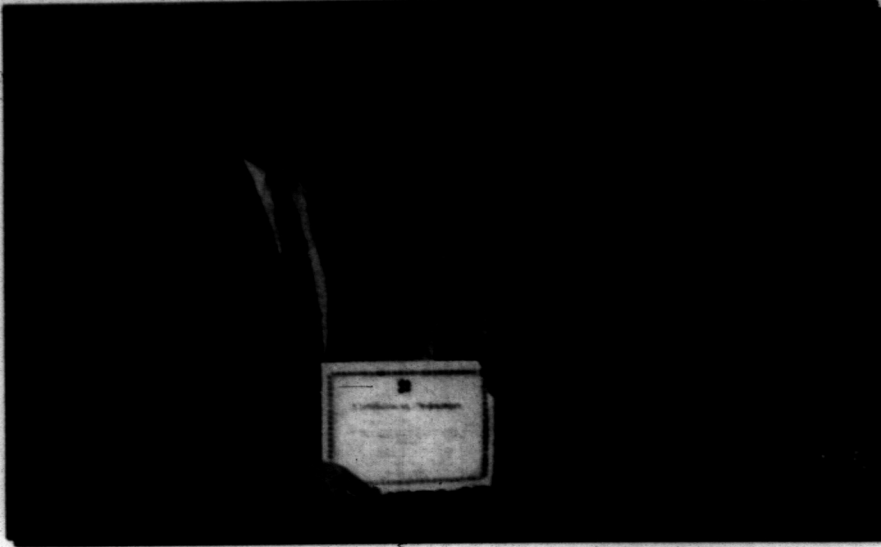
Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Youth Bible Drill Participants, Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce



2. Deacon Ordination, Utica Church, Utica



3. Missions Goal Reached, Harrisville Church, Simpson County

1. **Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce**, honors its youth Bible drill participants. From left: leader Teresa Harrelson, Brandy Gann, Christopher Baker, Rebekah Baker, and Janae Harrelson.

2. Buddy Kerr was recently installed as deacon at **Utica Church, Utica**. Shown are pastor Ben James, Kerr, and Sheree Kerr.

3. **Harrisville Church, Simpson County**, surpassed all their missions offering goals in 2005, giving \$2600 to the Margaret Lackey State Missions offering, \$3053 to the Annie Armstrong Easter offering, \$4712 to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering, \$5212 to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Katrina Hurricane Disaster Relief fund, \$14,367 to Simpson County Associational Missions and \$14,367 to the Cooperative Program. Shown is interim pastor Clarence E. Young presenting WOM director Shirley Leming a citation from the International Mission Board.

4. **First Church, Pascagoula**, received a check from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board representing the difference of actual damages from Hurricane Katrina to the church and the amount paid by insurance. Shown is Graham Smith, right, of the MBCB presenting the check to pastor Rex Yancey.

5. **Academy Church, Blue Mountain**, displayed several crosses in recognition of the Sanctity of Human Life Sunday Jan. 16. Shown are pastor Earl Baron and other church members.

6. **East Louisville Church, Louisville**, honored Mattie White for 27 years of service as church clerk.



White

7. **Eastside Church, Pearl**, ordained Anthony Broom as deacon Jan. 22. Shown are Broom, Melanie Broom,

Olivia Broom, and pastor Ron Harrison.

8. **Border Springs Church, Caledonia**, is dedicating the Doyle Knight Family Life Center Feb. 12, 2:30 p.m. Glen Edmonds, pastor.

9. **Clarke-Venable Church, Newton**, will host a Moms in Touch Coffee Feb. 13, 8:30 a.m., for all moms interested in participating in a Moms in Touch prayer group for each school, whether public or private, in Newton County or the surrounding area. For more information, call (601) 357-0143.

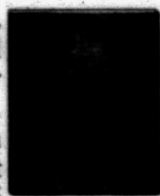
10. **New Bethel Church, Philadelphia**, will have a dedication service for its new sanctuary Feb. 12. Sunday School, 11 a.m.; lunch on the ground; and dedication service, 2 p.m.

11. **First Church, Sand Hill, Richton**, held a wild game dinner Jan. 15 to promote the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Elaine Rhodes was the guest speaker.

12. **McAdams Church, McAdams**, will host speakers Ray Van Camp, NAMB; Cindy Hodgins, IMB; Roger Gaunt, NAMB; and Jim Didlake, Miss. Baptist Convention, for the Attala County "On Mission Celebration" on Feb. 19.

13. **Concord Church, Pelahatchie**, will host Jerry Trammell in concert Feb. 12, 11 a.m. A love offering will be received.

14. **First Church, Eupora**, will honor pastor William S. Stewart upon his retirement Feb. 26 at 10:45 a.m., and with a reception from 2-4 p.m. He has served the church since 1964.



Stewart

15. Twenty-five Atalla County churches, including the Hispanic church in Carthage, will host an On



5. Sanctity of Life Display, Academy Church, Blue Mountain

Mission Celebration Feb. 18-19, with a Missions Fair at **First Church, Kosciusko**, from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

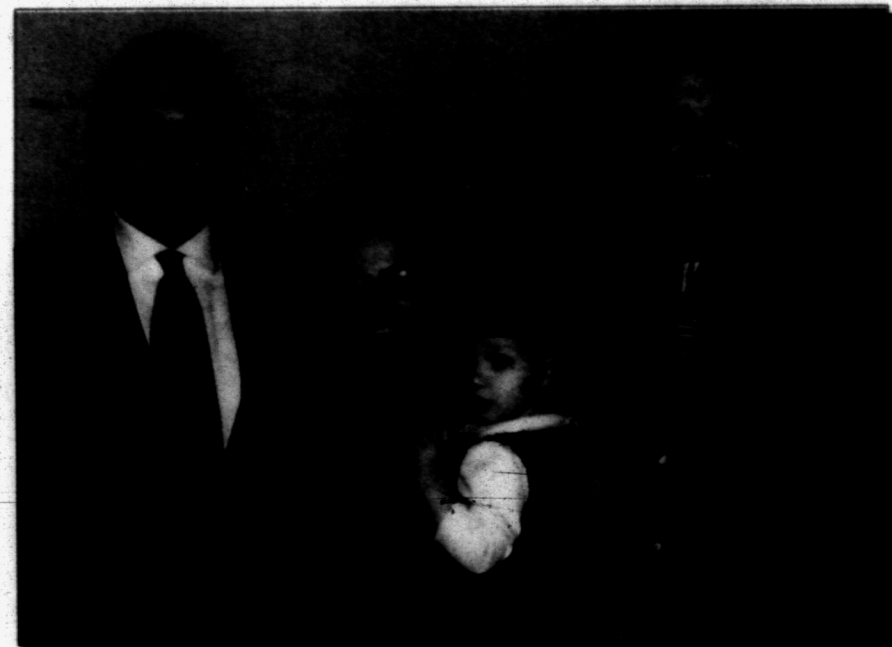
16. **First Church, Fulton**, will host Greater Vision in concert Feb. 12, 6 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

17. **First Church, Brooklyn**, ordained youth minister James T. Reardon to the ministry Jan. 22. Shown are J. Cecil Burt; Reardon; Mary Reardon; and James Taylor, pastor.

18. Vera Byrd of **First Church, Laurel**, was recognized for 30 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. Shown is Randy Turner, senior pastor, recognizing Byrd with a certificate.



18. Byrd Awarded for Perfect Attendance, First Church, Laurel



7. Deacon Ordination for Broom, Eastside Church, Pearl



17. Reardon Ordination, First Church, Brooklyn